

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 222076

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ORIGIN EA-09

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DRAFTED BY EA:RHMILLER:AOA

APPROVED BY EA:P.C.HABIB

DOD/ISA-M. ABRAMOWITZ

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R 172257Z SEP 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 222076

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MASS, LA, US

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH LAO OFFICIALS ON AID QUESTIONS.

REF: USDAO/VIENTIANE MESSAGE 150125Z SEP 75 TO AIG 976.

REFTEL HAS RAISED CONCERN HERE THAT APPARENT EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST IN LAO ARMED FORCES IN CONTEXT OF MAP DISCUSSION COULD BE MISINTERPRETED BY LAO OFFICIALS AS HOPEFUL SIGN. AS WITH QUESTIONS OF FUTURE ECONOMIC AID, LAO QUERIES ABOUT FUTURE MAP SHOULD BE ANSWERED ESSENTIALLY BY SAYING CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES ARE NOT FAVORABLE FOR SUCH DISCUSSIONS AND THAT NUMEROUS ISSUES REMAIN TO BE RESOLVED FIRST. RECOGNIZING NEW SITUATION THAT EXISTS IN LAOS AND POLITICAL SENSITIVITIES INVOLVED, AND SINCE PROSPECTS FOR LAO MAP ARE IN EFFECT NON-EXISTENT, WE BELIEVE ANY FUTURE DISCUSSIONS WITH RESPONSIBLE LAO OFFICIALS SHOULD BE CONDUCTED BY CHARGE WITH DATT OF COURSE ACCOMPANYING HIM AT HIS DISCRETION. KISSINGER

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